

Pewsey Rural District Council.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for the Year 1938.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my 19th Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your District.

I am endeavouring to follow out the lines suggested in circular 1,728 issued by the Ministry of Health to you in October 1938. As modern Public Health matters are mostly under the control of the County Councils, this report must necessarily be confined mainly to statistics and sanitary administration, as only those matters with which you are concerned are dealt with.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. WILSON,

18 Victoria Road, Salisbury.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Census 1931: 14,292

Population—Estimated Mid 1938—14,200

Area, 75,828 Acres

Rateable Value: £74,022

Sum represented by Penny Rate: £315

Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books end of 1938, 3,560.

Births, 1938.	Male.	Female.	Total.				Birth Rate, 1938.			England and Wales	
Live	133	125	258 (14 Illegitimate)				Live	18.1		Live	15.1
Still	7	4	11 (0 „)				Still	0.7		Still	0.6
			1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Birth Rate			16.9	16.8	18.7	18.01	18.8	19.1	19.9	15.9	17
England and Wales			14.9	14.8	14.7	14.8	14.4	15.3	15.8	16.3	16.3

Deaths: Males, 99. Females, 76. Total, 175.

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Death Rate	11.9	10.4	10.8	9.8	10.5	11.2	11.1	14.5	10.7	12.3
England and Wales ..	11.6	12.7	12.1	11.7	11.8	12.3	12.0	12.3	11.4	13.4

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age: Males 11. Females 5. Total, 16 (1 Illegitimate)

	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)	62	29.2	30.3	71.9	41.8	50.9	61	42.4	45.2	42.4
England and Wales	53	58	59	57	59	64	65	66	60	74
Deaths from Measles (all ages),	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	4
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	3	2	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	1
„ Diarrhoea (under two years)	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0
No. of Women dying in consequence of										
Child Birth	0	2	2	0	0	1	1	2	2	2

The areal comparability factor this year for death rate is given as 0.97.

STAFF.

The Staff of the Sanitary Department consists of:—

- (1). Dr. A. H. Wilson, Medical Officer of Health.
- (2). L. J. Timothy, A.R.S.I., Sanitary and Meat and Foods Inspector. Commenced duties 1st April, 1938.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease.					Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total deaths.
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	20 (incl. 1 Mil.)	20 (1 Mil.)	0
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	5 (incl. 1 Mil.)	5 (1 Mil.)	0
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	6 (incl. 2 Mil.)	2 (2 Mil.)	1
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	3 (incl. 1 Mil.)	3 (1 Mil.)	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
Ac. Polio Myelitis	..	..	..	..	1	0	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	..	..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5	..	..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
10	..	..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	..	..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1
20	..	(1 Mil.)	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
25	..	(1 Mil.)	4	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
35	..	..	0	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
45	..	..	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55	..	..	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and up	..	..	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Total	..		10	2	4	5	5	1	1	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever. 20 cases of this disease were notified during the year but they were distributed over the whole of the district and in no case was there any suspicion of an epidemic. All were admitted to Hospital but of these seven went to the Military Hospital at Tidworth and one to the Marlborough Isolation Hospital on payment by the patient. No death arose and most were of a mild type.

Diphtheria. 5 cases were notified and all went to Hospital but of these one was a military case and three were contacts of some children which were sent to a house in the District from London under a country holiday scheme and one of these was found to be a carrier and was from a house in which a case had been recently sent to Hospital with this disease. All the children belonging to this house contracted the disease and the two carriers had to be sent to Hospital as well. This case was taken up with the authorities from where the children came.

This only leaves one case arising in the district during the year.

Acute Poliomyelitis. The one case of this disease notified was in a man age 40 and was treated privately.

Pneumonia. 6 cases were notified, of these 2 were military cases and treated in their hospital and of the others 2 died.

Erysipelas. 3 cases notified. One was military and treated in their Hospital and the other two were treated in the Isolation Hospital.

Puerperal Pyrexia. The one case notified was treated in the Salisbury Isolation Hospital and recovered.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. The one case notified was treated privately and so far as I can ascertain no impairment of vision resulted.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Special Legislation in Force.

Part III, P.H.A.A.A., 1890.

Sec. 25, P.H.A.A.A., 1907.

All sections of the P.H.A. 1925, adoptable by R.D.C.'s.

Pewsey Rural (Special Expenses) Order, 1932, dated 25 : 11 : 32.

Pewsey Rural (Special Expenses Rescission) Order, 1935, dated 2 : 10 : 35.

By-Laws : New Buildings (1935). Removal of House Refuse, etc. (1928). Slaughter Houses (1926). Tents, vans, sheds, etc. (1906).

Water Supply.

During the year 1938 the two main water supplies, viz. Pewsey which is the property of the Council, and Ludgershall which is the property of Ludgershall Water Works Company, and is actually situated just beyond the boundary of the county, have been chemically examined once and bacteriologically examined at least 10 times.

The Pewsey supply has on the whole been fairly satisfactory, 3 of the samples being bacteriologically sterile and the others varying between 2 and 8 presumptive B. Coli per 100 c.c., except on one occasion when it showed 160, but this time it was found that there had been some accidental contamination in the taking and the next sample taken a few days after was back at 8. Recent reports have shown that these B. Coli are not true intestinal B. Coli, and consequently of not such serious significance.

Recently, owing to a shortage of supply last Autumn, a new bore hole has been dug and since then the water has been more plentiful and of better quality.

PEWSEY.

Chemical.				Parts per 100,000	
Re-action	...	...	...	Alkaline P.H.	7.3
Saline and Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.001
Organic (or "albuminoid") Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.002
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate (2 hours at 27° C.)	...	...	...	...	0.01
Chlorides	...	...	...	...	1.8
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	1.8
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	35.0
(a) Temporary	...	...	...	...	28.0
(b) Permanent	...	...	...	...	7.0
Poisonous Metals	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrites	...	...	...	...	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment	...	...	...	...	Nil

The Ludgershall supply has not been quite so favourable, this water has been sterile on five occasions, but on others has varied between 3 and 13 presumptive B. Coli per 100 c.c., and these have been recently proved to be true intestinal B. Coli., the only anxiety I have is that this pollution varies so, and I am of opinion that when the proposed sewage scheme for this village, which will include Faberstown where a good many houses exist close round the source of supply, is completed, the water will improve in quality.

LUDGERSHALL.

Chemical.				Parts per 100,000	
Reaction	...	...	...	Alkaline P.H.	7.4
Saline and Free Ammonia	...	...	...	...	Nil
Organic (or "albuminoid") ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.001
Oxygen absorbed from permang. in 2 hrs. at 27° C.	...	...	...	...	0.006
Chlorides	...	...	...	...	1.8
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	...	...	0.5
Total Hardness	...	...	...	...	42.0
(a) Temporary	...	...	...	...	36.0
(b) Permanent	...	...	...	...	6.0
Poisonous Metals	...	...	...	...	Nil
Nitrates	...	...	...	...	Nil
Microscopical Examination of the Sediment	...	...	...	...	Nil

The Chemical Analysis in both cases is good.

Extension of Mains.

Apart from the connection of 8 Council Houses at Collingbourne Ducis to a Private Supply no further extensions have been made.

Summary of Water Supplies for the District.

Below is a summary of the whole water supply of the district, the remainder being shallow wells.

Public Water Supplies.

PEWSEY	...	Practically the whole of the Parish.
UPAVON	...	Twenty-two Council Houses at Avon Square, and six houses at Down View.
UPPER CHUTE	...	Village Well.
LUDGERSHALL	...	Practically the whole of the Parish.
NETHERAVON	...	War Department, number not known but including fourteen Council Houses.
WILCOT	...	Two village wells.
NORTH TIDWORTH	...	War Department, number not known but including twenty-five Council Houses.
OARE	...	Two village wells.

Private Water Supplies.

EASTON ROYAL	...	Easton Farmers Supply, approx. 12 cottages.
ALTON	...	A. G. Stratton, more than 20 cottages.
CHUTE	...	J. Hosier, Wexcombe, approx. 10 cottages. A. Withers, Parsonage Farm, approx. 6 cottages.
COLLINGBOURNE DUCIS		A. J. Bridgman, approx. 20 cottages, including 18 Council Houses at Tidworth Road.
ENFORD	...	Poores Estate Ltd., approx. 22 cottages including 4 Council Houses.
EVERLEIGH	...	Nat. Deposit Friendly Society, practically the whole of East Everleigh, including 2 Council Houses.
MILTON	...	J. S. Haines, approx. 12 cottages.
OARE	...	H. Pile, 6 Council Houses at Sunnyhill Lane.

Boreholes Supplying Council Houses.

ALTON, 6. BURBAGE, 14 (Easton View) and 10 (Seymour Gardens). COLL : KINGSTON, 8 (Brunton) and 2 (Main Road). EASTON, 10. HAXON, 3. MILTON, 8 (Cross Roads) and 4 (Main Road). NORTH NEWNTON, 8. UPAVON, 18 (Down View). WILCOT, 4. WOODBOROUGH, 8. WOOTTON RIVERS, 10.

Drainage and Sewage.

A sewage system for the greater part of the Parish of Pewsey has been commenced. The scheme included the laying of main sewers, and branch drains, and a disposal works consisting of sedimentation tanks, dosing chamber, filters and humus tanks.

Negotiations are being conducted with the view to securing the disposal site for the Ludgershall scheme, and Faberstown, which is in Hampshire, is now proposed should come into the scheme.

A step forward has been made towards improving and standardizing the disposal and purification plants to individual houses in unsewered areas, the Council having adopted a standard unit to be installed when new houses are built or the drainage systems of old houses reconstructed.

River and Streams.

The Rivers Pollution Prevention Act is administered by the County Council. Some work is done to achieve the aim of the Act by cleansing foul ditches and preventing as far as possible the discharge of crude sewage into streams.

Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of a number of cases where the reconditioning of cottages has taken place, no conversions have been made. No formal action has been taken by the Council.

The greater number of the Council Houses have closet accommodation of the E.C. type, but the water carriage system is in operation at Pewsey and for the newer houses at Ludgershall. The tendency is to instal the water carriage system where ever possible.

Night Soil collection in Pewsey is carried out by direct labour, and Ludgershall is served by a voluntary scheme.

Public Cleansing.

Seavenging of highways and streets is carried out by the County Council, although they refuse to cleanse ditches and road gutters to which waste water from cottages may gain access. This presents some difficulty since the Council does not itself employ sufficient labour to attend to this matter.

The collection of house refuse is carried out by direct labour, and is such that it covers the whole of the District, providing for weekly collections in Pewsey, Ludgershall and North Tidworth, whilst the other parishes have fortnightly collections. A new 10 cubic yard freighter was put into operation in April. The labour employed consists of a driver, loader and one man who is in continual attendance at the Dump.

The refuse is ultimately disposed of by burning.

The Dump is in an isolated part of the District and no complaints of nuisance have been reported.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

	No. of In- spections.	No. of Defects.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Remedied by 3	Remedied by 4	Remedied after verbal in- structions only.
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Nuisances	85	67	15	—	15	—	16
Slaughterhouses	150	23	5	—	5	—	18
Knacker's Yards	21	2	—	—	—	—	2
Dairies & Cowsheds	108	41	12	—	11	—	29
Tents, Vans & Sheds	5	2	—	—	—	—	2
Bakehouses	77	8	3	—	2	—	6
Butchers Shops	70	18	2	—	2	—	16
Totals	516	161	37	—	35	—	89

Not classified above :—	Housing Inspections (see Housing Table)	...	...	...	...	...	253
	Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	...	...	...	29
	Visits to Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	35
	Unclassified Visits, inspections (water samples, drain testing, refuse collection, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	89
	Total number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	922

Milk and Dairies etc.

	Number of wholesale producers registered (1938)	...	...	...	...	149
	„ retail purveyors registered (1938)	...	...	...	...	63
	„ certificates issued (Producers) during (1938)	...	...	...	...	2
	„ certificates issued (Retailers) during (1938)	...	...	...	...	—

Shops and Offices.

Routine inspections are carried out under the Shops Act, and Public Health Act 1936, but with the exception of a few cases which were remedied by informal and verbal notices, there is little to be commented upon. No formal action was necessary under the above Statutes.

Camping Sites.

Only one site was used for camping during the year, this site is not licenced, but exemption was granted under Sec. 269 Public Health Act 1936. The total number of campers at any time did not exceed ten.

Swimming Baths.

There are no public swimming baths in the District.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No extensive fumigation for the eradication of Bed Bugs has been necessary during year, but disinfection by the use of insecticides has been carried out in three cases. On the whole there is little evidence to show that this pest is prevalent in the District.

Milk Supply.

As a result of a series of sediment tests that were made, it was found that some milkers are inclined to become negligent and overlook some of the minor details which go towards the production of clean milk. A further series of sediment tests were made with a view to fostering a competitive spirit among the milkers, this produced good results, but unfortunately it calls for more time than the Inspector can afford, consequently much of its good effect is lost, as it is impossible to carry out sufficient tests to maintain interest.

Meat and Other Foods.

Number of Registered Slaughter-houses...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of Licensed Slaughter-houses ...	...	...	...	...	3
Notices of Regular Slaughtering received	...	...	...	...	9
Notices of Occasional Slaughtering received	...	...	...	...	13
Number of Condemnations ...	...	...	...	...	20

The undesirable practice of hanging meat outside shops, thus exposing it to contamination, has come to an end as a result of tactful approach by the Meat Inspector.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed (if known)					
Number Inspected	60	150	35	100	75
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcases Condemed	—	—	2	7	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned		3			
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis		2%	5%	5%	6%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole Carcases condemned		1	—	—	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	17	—	—	24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	15%	12%	—	—	60%

HOUSING.

A.	No. of houses built without subsidy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
B.	No. of Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
C.	No. of Houses Demolished	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	20
D.	No. of cases of overcrowding discovered	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
E.	No. of cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
F.	No. of houses that have again become overcrowded	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0

HOUSING ACTS, 1909—1936.

*Statement of Work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1938, under the above Acts,
in the Pewsey Rural District.*

1 INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	121
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	290
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	130
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	25
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :		
(a)	By owners	...	Nil
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :		
(a)	By owners	...	Nil
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	...	Nil

C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	9
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	20

D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	86
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	87
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	487
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	4
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	15
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	147
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding.					Nil.
(e)		Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.					

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

Causes of Death.			M.	F.
All Causes ...	...	...	99	76
1 Typhoid fever. etc. ...	...	...
2 Measles ...	...	...
3 Scarlet fever ...	...	...
4 Whooping cough ...	...	2	1	
5 Diphtheria ...	...	...
6 Influenza ...	...	...	1	
7 Encephalitis lethargica...	...	...
8 Cerebro-spinal fever ...	...	...
9 Respiratory tuberculosis	...	5	1	
10 Other tuberculous	...	1	2	
11 Syphilis ...	...	...
12 General paralysis of the insane, etc. ...	...	...
13 Cancer ...	...	9	11	
14 Diabetes ...	...	...	1	
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage	...	5	10	
16 Heart disease ...	...	26	25	
17 Aneurysm ...	...	...

Causes of death.			M.	F.
18 Other circulatory ...	...	5	2	
19 Bronchitis ...	...	3		
20 Pneumonia ...	...	3	4	
21 Other respiratory ...	...	3	1	
22 Peptic Ulcer ...	...	1		
23 Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ...	...	...
24 Appendicitis ...	...	1	2	
25 Cirrhosis of liver ...	...	1		
26 Other diseases of liver,	...	...
27 Other digestive ...	...	5		
28 Nephritis ...	...	4	1	
29 Puerperal sepsis...	...	...
30 Other puerperal ...	...	...
31 Congenital causes, etc.	...	9	3	
32 Senility ...	...	4	3	
33 Suicide ...	...	1		
34 Other violence ...	...	7	2	
35 Other defined causes ...	...	4	5	

Causes of death.			M.	F.
36 Ill-defined causes ...	...	...		1
Special Causes (included in No. 35)				
Small-pox ...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ...	...	...
Polioencephalitis ...	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—				
Total ...	...	...	11	5
Legitimate ...	...	...	10	5
Illegitimate ...	...	...	1	
Live Births				
Total ...	...	...	133	125
Legitimate ...	...	...	127	117
Illegitimate ...	...	...	6	8
Stillbirths				
Total ...	...	...	7	4
Legitimate ...	...	...	7	4
Illegitimate ...	...	...
Population			14,200	